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The work of a governess in a family
" " do - Mistress in a school

It may interest your readers to know that the interesting letters which have appeared in your columns comparing favourably the work of governesses in families with that of mistresses in schools. It is not too much to say that a large - & rising - number of highly educated women can have no pleasanter home than that of highly valued governesses in a pleasant family. And most English parents of the class which employ governesses have children of their own. The typical governess in the Rutger family, the highly cherished governess in the Thorpe family are relegated to the limbo of old romances.

The governess of today is a practical earnest-minded young woman who is intent upon doing her duty and - conscientiously, honestly to earn the gentlemen of the [illegible] There is not necessary connection between the two, but sometimes I believe seems to have given way, by a higher degree of conscientiousness, the governess of today is a healthy, happy young woman with refined & pleasant surroundings, finding her work [illegible]

There is still a large class of the old governesses. Their pupils are, small families especially, where the heads of the house like to have the evening to themselves. Breakfast

[illegible] pleasures are taken in common
but there is a schoolroom tea, & the governess
is often expected to have her own arrangements
the evening in her own sitting-room. Those who know
prefer, if this is more than an evening in lonely dignity
the dreaming-room would, no doubt, be pleasanter
but there are excellent reasons for the other arrangement
& a thoughtful governess would welcome it especially
as giving her time & quiet to plan her lessons
Again, in great houses, the schoolroom has its
own menials & the governess is not
very much in the company of her
pupils - But there are other compensations
Governesses begin the well-satisfied
parents (for whom the present writer has the
honour to hold a brief!) are not
quite so well pleased. They find the clever
conscientious young governess, with her
'Higher' certificates, wanting somewhat. Is
it that she misunderstands her subjects rather
than she understands her pupils? [illegible]
[illegible], Anyway, parents with beautiful
governesses, not highly educated perhaps, but
who understand how to manage & train children
how to develope their qualities & deal with their faults - How often the mothers
intelligent friend [illegible] concerning
their children - whether in sickness or health,
Mothers complain that governesses who have
received the "higher education" are less helpful

When there was the old-fashioned governess she used "Butters' Spellings" & "Pinnock's Catechisms".
The children cannot go back to Butter's & Pinnock's but Mothers make a fair demand when they ask for in a governess, besides certificates of attainments & testimonies as to personal character, a certificate guaranteeing: —
Morals —

In a word, the governess in a family must have degree & special training to prepare her for relations with children for more intimate teaching than those of teachers with a class.
Perhaps, Sir, you may think it well, in the interest of your readers to let me add that a "Home of Education" designed to afford this training begins work in Auckland in January. The movement is warmly supported especially by Mothers of the upper class whose engagements press heavily upon them. The demand (in advance) for students thus trained is very urgent, & a careful, pleasant, profitable & influential career is open to those who are willing to undergo the year's training.
The Field

I am Sir, Yours
Charlotte M. Mason (Editor of Parents' Review)

Auckland
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